Our Faith on Sunday

LITURGY

2nd Sunday of Advent (A)

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON: Cf. Is 30:19,30

**O people of Sion, behold,
the Lord will come to save the nations,
and the Lord will make the glory of his voice heard
in the joy of your heart.**

FIRST READING: Isaiah 11:1-10

He judges the wretched with integrity.

PSALM: Ps 71:1-2.7-8.12-13.17. R.cf.v7

R) In his days justice shall flourish and peace till the moon fails.

O God, give your judgement to the king,
to a king's son your justice,
that he may judge your people in justice
and your poor in right judgement. **(R)**

In his days justice shall flourish
and peace till the moon fails.
He shall rule from sea to sea,
from the Great River to earth's bounds. **(R)**

For he shall save the poor when they cry
and the needy who are helpless.
He will have pity on the weak
and save the lives of the poor. **(R)**

May his name be blessed for ever
and endure like the sun.
Every tribe shall be blessed in him,
all nations bless his name. **(R)**

SECOND READING: Romans 15:4-9

Christ is the saviour of all men

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION:

Alleluia, alleluia! Lk 3:4.6
**Prepare a way for the Lord,
make his paths straight,
and all mankind shall see the salvation of God.
Alleluia!**

GOSPEL: Matthew 3:1-12

Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is close at hand.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON: Bar 5:5;4:36

Jerusalem, arise and stand upon the heights, and behold the joy which comes to you from God.



GOSPEL REFLECTION



'Truth' is one of Our Lord's names. *"I am the way and **the truth** and the life,"* he said. Truth and life go together. John the Baptist is accusing the scribes and Pharisees of being *"hypocrites"*, in other words self-deceivers, liars, enemies of truth. *"Do not pride yourselves on being children of Abraham,"* he says. It is not outward membership, or conformity, that counts with God. They may be *'children'* of the Chosen People in terms of their physical ancestry, but are they children in obedience, faithfulness, love? Are they keeping God's commandments? God sees the heart, St. John is saying, and He hates hypocrisy and punishes it. Truth in the heart means a life bearing the fruits that God loves to see: the fruits of repentance, of kindness, of forgiveness and love - especially love. Love, first of all, of God himself; secondly of neighbour for God's sake. These 'fruits' prepare a person to receive *"the one who is coming"*, who brings the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of holiness and friendship with God.

EVANGELII GAUDIUM (JOY OF THE GOSPEL)



THE SOCIAL DIMENSION OF EVANGELIZATION

CONCERN FOR THE VULNERABLE

213 (Cont'd). Human beings are ends in themselves and never a means of resolving other problems. Once this conviction disappears, so do solid and lasting foundations for the defence of human rights, which would always be subject to the passing whims of the powers that be. Reason alone is sufficient to recognize the inviolable value of each single human life, but if we also look at the issue from the standpoint of faith, "every violation of the personal dignity of the human being cries out in vengeance to God and is an offence against the creator of the individual".[176]

176 John Paul II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation Christifideles Laici (30 December 1988), 37: AAS 81 (1989), 461.

GOSPEL CHILDHOOD
The 'Little Way' of St Therese of Lisieux for everyone*

A WAY OF SELF-OFFERING

I'm attracted to the idea of sacrifice, but I'm only a child.

Unlike the perfect sacrifices demanded in the Hebrew Scriptures I'm weak and imperfect, not flawless sacrificial material. However, Jesus, despite my imperfections, has chosen me to be all his own. Jesus wants to set me aflame in the fires of love until there is nothing left except fire, and I've accepted the invitation.

Some of the sisters in this Carmel have offered themselves to God's justice, but that has no attraction for me. Instead I have been drawn to offer myself to God's merciful love. There is in God's heart such infinite tenderness, a tenderness he longs to give and to share with us, and yet so few people are interested in receiving it. I want to open myself to receive all that God wants to give me, all the love he wants to pour out upon me until I am totally consumed in the flames.

And so I pray like this:

In the evening of life I shall stand before you with empty hands. I do not ask you, Lord, to count my works. All our acts of virtue are tarnished in your sight...

I therefore offer myself as a sacrifice to your Merciful Love to be wholly consumed, so that my life may become an act of perfect love. Continue to burn me up, Jesus, I beg you. Release those waters of infinite tenderness pent up within your heart, and let them well up within my own soul. O my God, make me a martyr of your Love.

If that is what you want, you can have it too, for love is repaid by love alone. I can never regret having offered myself to God's love for that is the whole meaning of my life, the point to which it was tending from the very first moment.

* Simplified and illustrated by Elizabeth Ruth Obbard. First published in 2005 in Great Britain by: New City Unit 1 Polaris Centre 41 Brownfields Welwyn Garden City AL7 1AN https://www.newcity.co.uk/book-tag/focolare/ ISBN: 13:978-0904287-94-3

Excerpts from the English translation of The Roman Missal © 2010 International Commission on English in the Liturgy Corporation. All rights reserved. The Psalms: A new Translation © 1963 The Grail (England) published by Harper Collins.Excerpt from THE JERUSALEM BIBLE, copyright (c) 1966 by Darton, Longman & Todd, Ltd. and Doubleday, a division of Random House, Inc. Reprinted by Permission.

THE CATHOLIC PRINTING COMPANY OF FARNWORTH* www.catholicprint.co.uk 0161 873 7457 ©2019

S. JOHN FISHER, REDBOURN with FLAMSTEAD AND MARKYATE.

PARISH PRIEST: Father Michael Mannion. Telephone 01582 792270

2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT – 8TH DECEMBER 2019

MASSES THIS WEEK

Sunday (Saturday)	5.30pm	Tilak Khurwal (RIP)
Sunday	9.00am	Louis Kayum (RIP Anniv.)
Monday 9th December	11.45am	The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary
Friday 13th December	11.45 am	St Lucy, Virgin & Martyr – Luis ,Santana, Cosmos & Martino Fernandes (RIP)
Sunday 15th December	**3rd Sunday of Advent**	
(Saturday)	5.30pm	
Sunday	9.00am	

Confessions are available after Saturday evening Mass and on request.

Feast Days This Week: 14th December – St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor

Please remember in your prayers: Sick; Nigel Clark, Judy Atkins, Sofia Mayorga, Una Hewitt, Mary Jones, David Ruth, Maria Maynard, Liz Mevin and Diane Boba.

Please remember in you prayers this week in The Churches Together List the residents of:
East Common, Ver Road, Dunstable Road, Rickyard Meadow, Cumberland Drive, Linden Road, Cell Park Farm, Farrer Top, King Street, Park View Drive, The Close, Church Road, London Road and Singlets Lane.

Christmas Hampers: This year the raffle raised the magnificent sum of £353.00 which will go towards our project for purchasing another well in Uganda through **CAFOD.** A huge Thank You to everybody who contributed and helped in any way and to Janet who organised this event.
The winning tickets are; White 840 Daniella, White 833 Mavis, Green 421 Patsy Luck, White 809 Susan Aldridge, Blue 706 Tessa Corbett, Green 341 Sarah Street, Green 323 Kin, Green 348 Jo, White 803 Sue Chambers, Green 359 Lauren & Mario.

Christmas Flower Collection will take place this weekend and next weekend.

Church Cleaning will take place on **Saturday 14th December from 9.00am.** As many helpers as possible please.

Advent Giving Calendar
Advent is a special season in the Church's year when we prepare to celebrate the coming of Christ. However, for many people facing food poverty, Christmas can be a difficult time. Currently, 8.4 million people in the U.K. regularly do not get enough to eat. The Caritas Food Collective are a new project working to tackle food poverty in the Diocese of Westminster. This year, we have created an 'Advent Giving Calendar' to help use this season as a time when we think of those who might be struggling, and do our bit to help them in the run up to Christmas.
You are welcome to bring anything you wish to donate to the Church, there is a basket in the porch, and we will pass them on to our local food bank through St Marys.
The **Big Blue Advent Calendar** is available at the back of the Church.

Readers and Extraordinary Ministers are needed for the Christmas Services.
If you are able to help please put your name on the list at the back of the Church

Reconciliation Services

Redbourn
Tuesday 17th December at 7.30pm

Wheathampstead
Monday 16th December at 7.30pm